

IN THE CLAIMS



Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a suspension of hydrophobic oxide particles which has a defined, adjustable viscosity, wherein said process comprises suspending low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles in at least one organic suspension agent, and then

adding from 0.05 to 15% by weight based on the suspension medium, of high structured oxidic particles,

wherein low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles ~~being~~ are hydrophobic oxidic particles which, compared with the corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, have an at least 30% reduced dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50% higher tamped density,

wherein the surface of the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles comprises an irregular fine structure in the range of 1 nm to 1000 nm,

wherein the irregular fine structure comprises elevations, and

wherein the elevations have an aspect ratio of greater than 1.0.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic oxidic particles are hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles or hydrophobic precipitated oxidic particles.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles comprise a material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, titanium oxide, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles are hydrophobic pyrogenic silicas.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are added in an amount from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight based on the suspension medium.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein said process comprises an organic suspension agent selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, sulfoxides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension medium includes water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A suspension of hydrophobic oxidic particles which has a defined, adjustable viscosity,

wherein low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles₁ and from 0.05% to 15% by weight based on the suspension medium₁ of high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles₁ are present in the suspension in at least one organic suspension agent,

wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles ~~being~~ are hydrophobic oxidic particles which, when compared with the corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, have an at least 30% reduced dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50% high tamped density₁

wherein the surface of the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles comprises an irregular fine structure in the range of 1 nm to 1000 nm,
wherein the irregular fine structure comprises elevations, and
wherein the elevations have an aspect ratio of greater than 1.0.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A suspension produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 8, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to ~~1,000 mPa s~~ 1,000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than 20 s^{-1} .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a soil and water repellent coatings coating on articles at least one surface of an article comprising

applying the suspension of claim 8 to the at least one surface of the article, and
removing the suspension medium,

thereby producing the soil and water repellent coating on the at least one surface of the article ~~utilizing the suspension of claim 8.~~

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the suspension is applied to the at least one surface of the article by knife coating.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, ~~comprising producing soil and water repellent coatings on textiles~~ wherein the article is a textile.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 ~~claim 16~~, ~~comprising producing~~ wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of apparel, an industrial textiles textile, and a textile building fabric fabrics.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 9, wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The suspension of claim 9, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to ~~1,000 mPa s~~ 1,000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than 20 s^{-1} .

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 9, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a soil and water repellent coatings coating on at least one surface of an article ~~articles~~ comprising

applying the suspension of claim 9 to the at least one surface of the article, and
removing the suspension medium,
thereby producing the soil and water repellent coating on the at least one surface of
the article utilizing the suspension as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the suspension is applied by knife coating.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, wherein the article is a textile comprising producing soil and water repellent coatings on textiles.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method of ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of apparel, an industrial textile, and a textile building fabric comprising producing apparel, industrial textiles and textile building fabrics.

Claim 26 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 27 (New): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 13, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.